

Portable Sanitation Contractor Exam Study Guide



A passing score of 70% will be required for Portable Sanitation Contractor Certification

A passing score of 80% will be required for Level I Inspector Certification

In preparation for the exam, it is recommended that individuals refer to the study guides on the Department's website at www.dph.ga.gov and review the Rules of the Department of Public Health, 511-3-6, as well as the Georgia Manual for Onsite Sewage Management Systems.

Please contact the State Office at 404.657.6534 to make an appointment to sit for the exam.

This study guide is not intended to be a comprehensive resource for Portable Sanitation Contractors. Please refer to the Rules of the Department of Public Health, 511-3-6 for more detailed information.

The purpose of this study guide is to assist portable sanitation contractors in preparing for the certification examination which is administered by the Georgia Department of Public Health.

This document is intended to summarize information contained in the Portable Sanitation Contractors Rule; it is not a replacement document. To prepare for the examination, it is recommended that individuals study the rules in addition to reviewing this study guide.

The examination pertains to contractors who will service and dispose of portable sanitation waste in a properly permitted sewage treatment facility.

Sewage disposal can be accomplished at a county, municipal or otherwise approved wastewater treatment plant that is regulated by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division.

Persons engaged in servicing, pumping and transporting portable sanitation waste must successfully complete the requirements of state certification, and must obtain a waste removal and disposal permit from the local county health department where the business has its base of operation. The state certification must be renewed every two years and renewal will be based on completion of six (6) hours continuing education credit (required for the business owner or their designee only) and the payment of a renewal fee. A waste removal and disposal permit will be issued by the county health department where the business has its base of operation, and will be subject to the terms of the individual county. Permit applications must be submitted at least ten (10) days prior to engaging in removal activities and shall include: the applicant's name and address and the business name and address, the manner by which septage is removed, transported and given final disposal, and evidence that the portable sanitation waste removed and transported will be accepted at an approved disposal site. Waste Removal and Disposal permits are valid for a period not to exceed twelve (12) months and expire on December 31st of each year. When applying for a waste removal and disposal permit, the means by which the contractor will dispose of pumped waste will be of primary importance. The contractor must produce evidence that documents that the waste will be disposed of in an approved manner.

It is the responsibility of the certified portable sanitation contractor and certified portable sanitation company to maintain the portable sanitation unit in a safe and sanitary manner so as not to constitute a public health nuisance.

The property owner and special event sponsor are responsible for all prohibited discharge and unapproved spillage of waste associated with a portable sanitation unit. A portable restroom or portable hand wash fixture cannot be used or maintained in such a manner that will allow the seepage, dumping or discharge of sewage from such system to the ground surface, to a water course, drainage ditch, open trench, canal, storm drain or storm sewer, water well, abandoned well, lake, stream, river, estuary, groundwater or other body water. The property owner and special event sponsor must notify the portable sanitation company if any unit becomes unsanitary, unsafe, or causes a prohibited discharge.

The property owner, as the originator, is responsible for ensuring that the portable sanitation unit is only used for the disposal of human excreta. Commercial waste, grease, hazardous chemicals, and non-human excreta shall not be discarded into portable sanitation units.

Table 2. Portable Sanitation Units for Special Events Planning

AVERAGE CROWD SIZE	AVERAGE HOURS AT THE EVENT *									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
500	2	4	4	5	6	7	9	9	10	12
1,000	4	6	8	8	9	9	11	12	13	13
2,000	5	6	9	12	14	16	18	20	23	25
3,000	6	9	12	16	20	24	26	30	34	38
4,000	8	13	16	22	25	30	35	40	45	50
5,000	12	15	20	25	31	38	44	50	56	63
10,000	15	25	38	50	63	75	88	100	113	125
15,000	20	38	56	75	94	113	131	150	169	188
20,000	25	50	75	100	125	150	175	200	225	250
25,000	38	69	99	130	160	191	221	252	282	313
30,000	46	82	119	156	192	229	266	302	339	376
35,000	53	96	139	181	224	267	310	352	395	438
40,000	61	109	158	207	256	305	354	403	452	501
45,000	68	123	178	233	288	343	398	453	508	563
50,000	76	137	198	259	320	381	442	503	564	626
55,000	83	150	217	285	352	419	486	554	621	688
60,000	91	164	237	311	384	457	531	604	677	751
65,000	98	177	257	336	416	495	575	654	734	813
70,000	106	191	277	362	448	533	619	704	790	876
75,000	113	205	296	388	480	571	663	755	846	938
80,000	121	218	316	414	512	609	707	805	903	1001
85,000	128	232	336	440	544	647	751	855	959	1063
90,000	136	246	356	466	576	686	796	906	1016	1126
95,000	143	259	375	491	607	724	840	956	1072	1188
100,000	151	273	395	517	639	762	884	1006	1128	1251

*Based on "Portable Restroom Requirements at Special Events and Crowd Gatherings"
Center for Business and Industrial Studies, University of Missouri-St. Louis*

Employees at all construction sites and the general public attending and participating in special events that are inadequately served by sewered toilet facilities should have easy access to portable sanitation units that are maintained in a clean, sanitary, and functional condition for the protection of human health, safety and welfare. The minimum number of portable sanitation units required at construction sites for 20 or less workers is 1.

The requirement references those units serviced once a week and comprises a regular shift. The minimum number of portable sanitation units required at special events with 500 people or less in attendance is 2.

If alcohol beverages are to be served, add 25% to the minimum number of portable sanitation units required at that event.

Table 1: Minimum Number of Portable Sanitation Units at Construction Sites

Number of Workers*	Minimum Number of Units Serviced Weekly**
20 or less	1 Toilet per 20 Workers
21 or more	1 Additional Toilet per 40 Workers
200 or more	1 Additional Toilet per 50 Workers

29 CFR 1926.51 OSHA Regulations for Toilets at Construction Sites

Portable sanitation units shall be located as close as practical to the highest concentration of participants, observers and employees of special events. However, the units should be placed as far from the food service area as possible. The safety of users shall be a primary consideration in the placement of the units. At special events, portable sanitation units shall be accessible at all times for maintenance by truck.

Vehicles used to transport pumped sewage must be inspected by the health department and must be water tight and properly maintained. The fresh water tank on the service vehicle must be filled with potable water only. All fresh water tanks must be labeled with the international symbol for “Do Not Drink”. The vehicle body and all pumps, hoses valves and fittings must be designed and maintained in a manner that will prevent leakage or spillage. Vehicles must be identified with letters and numerals on both sides of the vehicle that are at least two (2) inches in height, which identify the name of the person or business and the permit number.

The fresh water supply tank, hand wash fixture’s water supply tank and gray water storage tank must be cleaned with a 1 to 10 bleach to water solution (typically 3 to 6% sodium hypochlorite solution) at least once every forty five days to prohibit the growth of algae. It is the responsibility of the property owners, employers, and event sponsors to ensure that portable sanitation units are serviced by a certified portable sanitation contractor or company in accordance with this Rule at least once every seven days, and more frequently as usage may require.

Servicing shall include the use of a sanitizing solution for cleaning urinals and toilet seats, removing waste from containers, recharging containers with an odor controlling solution, and installing an adequate supply of toilet tissue.

No strong bases, acids or organic solvents shall be used in the operation of a portable sanitation unit. Chemicals used in the cleaning, operation or maintenance of portable sanitation units shall be in accordance with applicable federal, state and local provisions.